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# Community *notes*

## New Date for Public Meeting

A Pre-submission Community Meeting has been scheduled for the purpose of providing information to the community regarding a proposed Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement regarding the proposed redevelopment of certain properties in Downtown Columbia. The proposed agreement is in furtherance of the Joint Recommendations for Affordable Housing in Downtown Columbia and the vision for Downtown Columbia expressed in the Downtown Columbia Plan. This meeting is the next step in the public engagement process regarding these Joint Recommendations, subsequent to the series of public work sessions held by the Howard County Council on the topic between June and November of 2015. This Pre-submission Community Meeting will allow community residents and adjacent landowners to ask questions and make comments.

The meeting details are as follows:

**DATE:** **Saturday, February 20 - New Date**  
**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Howard Community College  
Student Services Hall, Room 400  
10910 Little Patuxent Parkway  
Columbia, MD 21044

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please feel free to contact Nancy Tucker at The Howard Hughes Corporation, 410.964.5446.

## Greeting

As you know from previous issues of the newsletter, I not only love the arts but I'm unabashedly enthusiastic for the Columbia Festival of the Arts. This weekend, CFA kicks off its winter festival and the lineup of musical performances, film presentations and theatre productions is captivating and wide-ranging.

While we wait for spring, this festival may have 'just the thing' to lift our *Winter Blues*. Looking forward to seeing you at one (or more) of the events!

*Maykay*

## Coffee and Conversation

Howard County Police invites the community to its next **Coffee with a Cop** program on Thursday



February 4 from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. at the new David's Natural Market at 5410 Lynx Lane, Columbia. This is an opportunity to chat informally, sip a warm beverage and make new acquaintances.

## Howard County Consumer Affairs News

Today, the average traditional funeral costs between \$7000 and \$10,000. It is often difficult for grieving family members to make smart decisions when arranging a funeral and, unfortunately, unscrupulous merchants often take advantage of buyers' emotions – pitching goods or services that are not needed or are overpriced. By planning ahead, you can reduce both the cost and stress to your family.



Visit the [Howard County Consumer Affairs webpage](#) for helpful information on this and other topics such as how to avoid tax scams, an upcoming Student Loan Forum and much more.

## Columbia Festival of the Arts Presents

### Winter Blues

Theatre Offerings

**Friday, February 5, 2016 7:00 -10:30 p.m.**

**August Wilson's GEM OF THE OCEAN** | By The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, Mark Clayton Southers, Founder and Producing Artistic Director

#### Celebration Church

GEM OF THE OCEAN is a critically-acclaimed play is filled with memorable characters, gentle humor and soulful poetry. Set in 1904, this play is the first episode of August Wilson's epic cycle of African-American life in the 20th century. Tickets: \$17

**Saturday, February 6, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

#### BEANS WITH NO SALT: POETRY AND PERCUSSION

##### HCC, Kittleman Room of Duncan Hall

Join HoCoPoLitSo for a coffeehouse afternoon of poetry and percussion with Baltimore poet and Little Patuxent Review editor **Steven Leyva** and drummer **Josh Soto** on congas and drum set. A book signing and reception will follow. Tickets: \$15 general admission & \$10 for students and seniors.

Purchase online: [Brown Paper Tickets](#).

**Sunday, February 21, 2016 ■ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

#### COLUMBIA VOICES | Staged Reading Of Act One

by Gwydion Suilebhan, Directed by Todd Olson



#### Oliver's Carriage House – Kittamaqundi Community Church

In 2014 The Columbia Festival of the Arts awarded a commission to playwright Gwydion Suilebhan for the creation of a new play inspired by Columbia's founding in 1967.

With an eye on Columbia's 50th Birthday in 2017 (which is also The Festival's 30th Anniversary), we are again showcasing this work-in-progress with a staged reading of select scenes. Tickets: \$11

**Saturday, February 20, 2016 ■ 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

#### BLACK LIVES, BLACK WORDS | Six Short Plays From a New Theatre Movement

##### Monteabaro Recital Hall, Howard Community College

Short works by up-and-coming black playwrights from Chicago and London, exploring the black diaspora of experiences in some of the largest multicultural cities in the world. This project gives voice to contemporary black writers from the US and the UK, asking them to explore the question "Do black lives matter today?" These plays not only discuss these important issues but also seek to provide solutions to the many problems that our community is struggling with. Tickets: \$17

## Winter Blues: Music and More

**Friday, February 12, 2016 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

#### CONVERSATION WITH KWAME KWEI-ARMAH

##### Oliver's Carriage House – Kittamaqundi Community Church

Live interview with Kwame about Baltimore's Center Stage and issues that affect professional theatre in America. Kwame Kwei-Armah is a scribbler, director, actor, theatre leader, sometime recording and broadcast artist with a razor-sharp intellect, yet wows people with his warmth. He also holds the elite-sounding title of "Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" but at Center Stage, he strives for inclusiveness as the prevailing vibe. Tickets: \$11



**Saturday, February 13, 2016 ■ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

#### AN AFTERNOON OF JAZZ | Music of Trane, Miles & Mingus

##### Monteabaro Recital Hall, Howard Community College

Veteran jazz pianist, composer, arranger and musical director Vince di Mura performs with saxophonist/composer James Brandon Lewis. Vince di Mura is a veteran Jazz pianist, composer, arranger and musical director who has appeared on concert stages and theatres throughout North America, Canada, Europe and Latin America. Saxophonist/composer James Brandon Lewis has earned a reputation in the gospel, R&B, and jazz worlds. Tickets: \$17

**Sunday, February 14, 2016 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

#### MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL ON TOUR

##### Jim Rouse Theatre

Featuring Raul Midon, Ravi Coltrane, Nicholas Payton, Gerald Clayton, Joe Sanders and Gregory Hutchinson.

The longest consecutively running jazz festival in the world, the Monterey Jazz Festival celebrates their unique brand of jazz-with-a-purpose exuberance while expanding the boundaries of jazz presentation. This year's lineup reflects Monterey's "traditional-untraditionalist" attitude, and is a who's-who of critically-acclaimed and Grammy-recognized top artists. Tickets: \$39-\$55



**Saturday, February 20, 2016 ■ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

#### FILM: FRUITVALE STATION | Sundance Audience & Grand Jury Prize Winner

##### Monteabaro Recital Hall, Howard Community College

The true story of 22-year-old Oscar Grant, who wakes up on the morning of December 31, 2008 and gets a head start on his resolutions. He strives to be a better son to his mother, whose birthday falls on New Year's Eve, a better partner to his girlfriend, and a better father to their beautiful 4 year old daughter. The day ends with events on the Fruitvale Station train platform that shook the San Francisco Bay Area to its core. Tickets: \$11

Visit the [CFA website](#) for more information on each event. Tickets can be purchased [online](#) as well. Enjoy the show!

## Upcoming Events

Join Howard County's Office of Children Services on Saturday, February 13, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane, Clarksville for the annual fair. Look for information on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as the opportunity to interact with educators and representatives from community service organizations. Plan to attend free informational sessions on "How to Choose an Early Childhood Program" offered each hour.

Although admission is free, please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Howard County Food Bank.



You are invited to Howard County Library System's annual Evening in the Stacks on Saturday, February 27, 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. at Miller Branch. This year's theme, **Black-Eyed Susan Ball**, promises much fun with great music, food and celebrity bartenders. Visit the [website](#) for all the details.



Celebrate 35 years of promoting the arts at the **Celebration of the Arts in Howard County** gala on Saturday, March 19, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Peter and Elizabeth Horowitz Visual & Performing Arts Center, Howard Community College. Tickets are \$100 (reception and live performance in Smith Theatre) and \$50 (reception and simulcast in Studio Theatre). Tickets are available for purchase on the [Celebration](#) page or by calling 410-313-ARTS (2787).

## Information Sessions for High School Leaders

Leadership U, a leadership development and community service program, invites current tenth grade high school students to apply for participation in junior year. Students will learn how to make a difference in the community and how to develop leadership skills.

Leadership Howard County will welcome students and parents to attend one of the information sessions to hear more about Leadership U and receive insight from a few of its recent graduates.

**Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at HCLS Central Branch**

**Thursday, March 3, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at HCLS Miller Branch**

Visit [www.leadershiphc.org](http://www.leadershiphc.org) for information about Leadership U and Leadership Howard County.



## Share the Stories of Great Volunteers

Nomination forms are now available for the 2016 "Volunteer of the Year" awards program. Sponsored by Howard County Government, the County Council and the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, this program recognizes individuals (youth and adults), non-profit organizations or governmental agencies, and for-profit organizations or community groups that have demonstrated commitment and dedication to our community. **The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 4.**

To qualify, nominees must be either residents of Howard County or do their volunteer work in Howard County. In addition, their volunteer efforts should have an impact on an individual or the community; for individual nominations, the nominated service must be performed outside the scope of the nominee's paid employment.

Nomination forms are available on the County's Volunteer of the Year website, [www.howardcountymd.gov/voy.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/voy.htm).

Completed nomination forms may be: filled out online and submitted via email to [voy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:voy@howardcountymd.gov);

mailed to: Howard County Volunteer of the Year, Attn: Alexandra Bresani, Office of Public Information, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043; or faxed to 410-313-3390

Additionally, nominators may also **submit up to two additional endorsements** from other individuals or organizations familiar with the nominee's volunteer contributions. Endorsement forms are also available at [www.howardcountymd.gov/voy.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/voy.htm). These too may be submitted via email, mailed or faxed to the contact information above.

All nominees and award winners will be recognized at a ceremony on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building.



Mary Kay Sigaty

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